Amendments to the Claims

1-39. (Cancelled)

40. (New) A joined object comprising an article and a member soldered to the article with a solidified lead-free solder which comprises an alloy of tin with no lead contained therein, wherein the joined object has a joining interface of the lead-free solder to at least one of the article and the member, at which interface there is no segregation of components contained in the solidified lead-free solder.

41. (New) The joined object according to claim 40, wherein the joined object further comprises a layer of a compound of Sn and Cu at the joining interface.

42. (New) The joined object according to claim 41, wherein the lead-free solder further comprises a metal acting to decrease a melting point of the lead-free solder.

43. (New) The joined object according to claim 42, wherein the lead-free solder has a Sn-Ag based composition as a main ingredient.

44. (New) The joined object according to claim 43, wherein the metal is at least one of Bi, Cu, Zn and In.